

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 555

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate the 140th anniversary of King College of Bristol, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize those institutions of higher learning that are dedicated to the education of young men and women under the auspices of Christian and spiritual guidance; and

WHEREAS, King College in Bristol is one such institution of higher learning, which has, since its founding in 1866-1867, offered the highest quality education to its students; and

WHEREAS, the origin of King College can be traced back to a gathering of the Holston Presbytery in 1866-1867, that sought to establish a regional college that would “greatly elevate the standard of classical and scientific instruction and...fully develop the moral as well as the intellectual man”; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend James King, the Senior minister, offered a ten-acre tract of land in Bristol for the location of the new college that was subsequently named in recognition of his generosity and which opened in August of 1867, under the guidance of James Doak Tadlock, a Princeton Seminary graduate; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend George A. Caldwell, pastor at First Presbyterian, worked to generate funds for the endowment throughout King College’s early years; today the endowment stands at more than \$28 million; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, King College would begin transition to its present location, having accepted a sixty-acre tract of land for a new campus from Isaac Anderson, grandson of Reverend King, upon the agreement that King would become the official synodical college of the recently organized Synod of Appalachia, a group of several regional presbyteries; and

WHEREAS, with the aid of businessman E. W. King, King College would see the first building on the new campus, Bristol Hall, in 1917, and in 1922, the school’s football team’s

legendary trouncing of Lenoir-Rhyne by a score of 206-0 would be responsible for the College's nickname and mascot, as a reporter noted that King's team swept down the field "like a tornado;" and

WHEREAS, the year 1943 would mark the beginning of the illustrious twenty-five year tenure of Robert Todd Lapsley Liston as President of King College, during which he greatly influenced the character and achievements of the institution, focusing his early efforts on gaining accreditation, increasing enrollment, and improving the academic curriculum while he personally recruited students and faculty from around the region; and

WHEREAS, gaining accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1948, King College would undergo a major construction campaign in the 1950s and 1960s that would transform the campus with the establishment of the Oval, Parks Hall and the E.W. King Library in 1962; F.B. Kline Hall in 1964; and Liston Hall in 1966; and

WHEREAS, King College would become an independent school in 1978-79, following the dissolution of the Synod of Appalachia, but it continues to maintain covenant relationships with various Presbyterian organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Reverend Gregory Doty Jordan, Ph.D., is elected President of King College and launches the development of a comprehensive strategic plan, helps establish new and innovative degree programs, and leads the school in its largest-ever fund raising campaign as it heads into an era of steadily increasing enrollment that continues even today; and

WHEREAS, meeting and surpassing its goal of \$50 million in the *Building Meaningful Lives* campaign to become the most successful financial campaign in King College's history, the early years of this century at King have seen the growth of the College's five schools, including the School of Nursing, the School of Business and Economics, the School of Education, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the Peeke School of Christian Mission, as well as the establishment of the Center for Graduate and Professional Studies, which offers the first graduate level-degree, the Master of Business Administration, and the welcoming of King's first Fellows candidates at the Jack E. Snider Center for Honors; and

WHEREAS, expanding to serve the region, King College opened its first satellite site, the Wellmont-King College School of Nursing at Kingsport, in 2005, in collaboration with the Wellmont Health System and a year later would open the Downtown Kingsport satellite site; and

WHEREAS, today, in 2007, King College boasts its highest enrollment to date, operates seven satellite sites plus the main campus, offering more than eighty majors, minors, and concentrations, while continuing to establish new degree programs such as the Master of Science in Nursing with plans for the 2007-08 academic year to welcome the official inauguration of the Buechner Institute and the first cohorts in the Master of Education degree program; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the celebration of the one hundred and fortieth anniversary of its founding, and King College, having remained true to the visions of its founding fathers, continuing in its mission of educating students in an academically rigorous and collegiate setting that integrates Christian faith, scholarship, service, and career, leading to meaningful lives of achievement and cultural transformation; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize this esteemed institution on the celebration of its one hundred and fortieth anniversary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the faculty, administration, and students, of King College, both past and present, in celebrating the institution's one hundred and fortieth anniversary and offer our hopes for its every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.